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"attention is directed to the data which would be required for a scientific solution of the problem." Third, "the mathematical method is useful in clearing away the rubbish which obstructs the foundation of economic science, as well as in affording a place for the more regular part of the structure." Professor Moore's *Laws of Wages* gives striking service in all three lines.

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*Wages in the United States, 1908-1910: A Study of State and Federal Wage Statistics.* By SCOTT NEARING. New York: Macmillan, 1911. 8vo, pp. viii+220. \$1.25.

After a search through the labor statistics recently published by different federal and state bureaus, Professor Nearing has brought together in this little volume such data as he has thought of value in solving the question of what the wages, or rather the earnings, of labor have been during the period 1908-10. His conclusion, based upon "the available sources of statistics, and by inference for neighboring localities," and with a deduction of 20 per cent for unemployment, is that east of the Rockies and north of the Mason and Dixon Line, "three-quarters of the adult males and nineteen-twentieths of the adult females actually earn less than \$600 a year." It is important to note, however, that in one of the early chapters of the book it is pointed out that "any accurate answer to the question 'What wages are paid?' will be impossible" until some uniform system of collecting or presenting wage statistics has been "widely adopted" among the different states.

The three states that at present furnish wage statistics from which "scientific deductions are possible" are Massachusetts, New Jersey, and Kansas. Herein, of course, lies the crux of the difficulties that confront the writer of a volume like the one in hand. Data cannot be obtained from the states or the sections which one would select as the most important. The industrial statistics of Kansas are presented, not because Kansas is a more representative industrial state than New York, but because data from Kansas are available and suitable data cannot be obtained from New York. How far one wishes to accept conclusions drawn from Kansas data is of course open to every reader to decide.

Professor Nearing also presents the results of a study of certain federal and state reports on special industries. Here again the same difficulty is encountered. The wages paid in the telephone industry in

Milwaukee, Wis., may be vastly less important than wages paid in the textile mills of Massachusetts. Data for the former, however, Professor Nearing found available, and not for the latter.

Statistics are also gathered from the reports of the Interstate Commerce Commission relating to railroad wages, from the able and well-known *Report on the Strike at the Bethlehem Steel Works* for earnings of the men in a great steel center of Pennsylvania, from the *Report on the Federal Investigation of Telephone Companies* for wages paid in that industry. The value of the wage statistics published in these reports is unquestioned. One does not understand, however, why the equally valuable collection of data for the years 1908 and 1909 in the "Investigation of Western Union and Postal Telegraph Companies" (Sen. Doc. No. 725, 60th Cong.) should be ignored. And a more perplexing omission, in view of the special attention given to women's wages, is the failure to utilize the extremely valuable data collected in the already published volumes of the *Report on Condition of Woman and Child Wage-Earners*. Some of the data in these volumes relate to the year 1907, but so do other data published in the present volume. Another possible explanation might be the fact that the series is not yet completed; but the volume on the cotton industry appeared in 1910 and the important volumes on clothing, glass, silk, and other subjects followed early in 1911. In these volumes we have a great mine of recent valuable data on the subject of wages.

Many students of wage statistics will not agree with Professor Nearing's discussion of "statistics of average wages" in chap. vii; with the statement, for example, that "if all of the states compile their averages in a similar manner, the resulting averages are certainly comparable, though they may not accurately represent the actual amount of wages paid." There are some readers who will question whether conclusions of any value may be drawn from comparing one doubtful statistical expression with another equally doubtful. It may also be questioned in chap. vi whether there is any excuse for accepting the table of average wages published by the Wisconsin State Bureau of Labor for the women employed in sixteen different industries throughout the state as furnishing a basis for a "careful comparison" with the tables of classified daily wages paid to women telephone operators in Milwaukee. In the same chapter question must also be raised about the comparison between the table of classified weekly earnings of 2,556 women employed in 1908 in the department stores of Chicago and "other cities" of Illinois with the wages in 1906 of 2,258 women employed in factories. The fact that

these are not for the same date, that no explanation is furnished as to whether the same method of computing "classified weekly earnings" was used, and that we are not told which industries and which cities are represented by this relatively small group, makes questionable Professor Nearing's statement that "from the Illinois report, the student must conclude that the department-store wages when compared with factory wages, are relatively high" (p. 114).

Professor Nearing departs from the grammatical form usually followed in statistical discussions. Thus we frequently find such expressions as "this best data is of males" (p. 174); "the data submitted is so similar" (p. 174); "annual earnings of adult females is about \$250" (p. 208).

These are of course small and no doubt pardonable errors that are permissible in a first encounter with a difficult subject. There is, after all, no more laborious and thankless task than that which Professor Nearing set himself in this volume. One must be glad to see some of the restless energy which can produce three new books within a twelve-month turned into a field in which Professor Mitchell has shown that tireless drudgery may result in brilliant achievement.

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*Accident Prevention and Relief.* By FERD. C. SCHWEDTMAN and JAMES A. EMERY. New York: Published for the National Association of Manufacturers, 1911. 8vo, pp. xxxii+481.

This volume was published for the National Association of Manufacturers as the result of an investigation of European systems for the compensation and prevention of accidents. The purpose of the investigation was to obtain for members of the association such information on these subjects as might be of value to them in the working-out of private plans for compensation, and might eventually lead to the adoption of adequate legislation for the whole country. The writers state that the book is written primarily for the busy man but that the student and sociological investigator will also find in it much entirely new information.

Many of the European countries were visited in the course of the investigation, but the systems of only two of them, England and Germany, are considered in detail. Chaps. ii-vi are devoted to the German system, chaps. vii-xiii, inclusive, relate to English conditions, and chap. xiv consists of findings and recommendations of the committee. An appendix contains letters from German authorities on social insurance; the English Compensation Act, and